

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

## *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Realizing the urgent need for eye, tissue, and organ donors throughout the United States, National Donate Life Month was first observed in 2003 and National Donate Life Month Blue and Green Day was first observed in 2012 on April 15<sup>th</sup> of each year thereafter, to promote a greater understanding and awareness of life-saving benefits of donation; and,

*Whereas*, The transplantation of eyes, tissues, and organs is a miracle of modern medicine and is only possible through the compassion of eye, tissue, and organ donors; and,

*Whereas*, In 2016, Dakota Lions Sight & Health, the only donation organization based in South Dakota, facilitated 961 corneal transplants from 630 donors and thousands more were helped by non-ocular tissue donors, improving their quality of life and health; and,

*Whereas*, Every citizen of South Dakota should learn more about donation, register as donors, discuss the decision with their families, and be willing to give the precious gifts of sight and health to others; and,

*Whereas*, In 2013, I proposed and the South Dakota legislature passed House Bill 1217 to promote donation; and,

*Whereas*, I take this opportunity to continue to raise awareness of the need to donate eyes, tissues, and organs and to recognize donors and their families and to celebrate recipients:

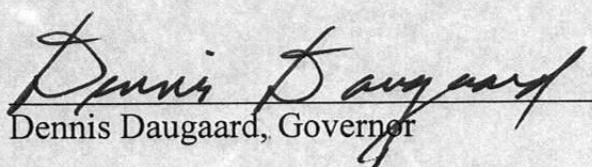
*Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim April 2017 as

## ***DONATE LIFE MONTH***

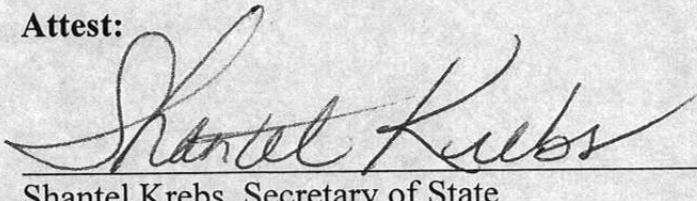
in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

  
Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

  
Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State